GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3794
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2000
SAFE MOTHERHOOD
JITENDRA PRASADA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the experts at the Seminar on `safe motherhood in India` have expressed the view that one woman dies every five minutes from pregnancy related complications which claim lakhs of lives every year in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a)to(c)There is no regular and reliable estimation of maternal mortality in India. Sample Registration System (1997), however, indicates maternal mortality ratio at 408 per one lakh live births. The implies that around one lakh women die each year or one women dies every five minutes from causes related to pregnancy. The high maternal mortality is due to a combination of social and medical causes. The common medical causes are Haemorhage, Aneamia, Abortion, Toximia, Infection and obstructed labour. The social causes are illiteracy, poverty and low social status of women. Department of Family Welfare launched the Reproductive and Child Health Programme in October, 1997 to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity. The Programme includes essential and emergency obstetric care, promotion of safe and institutional deliveries, provision for referral transportation for indigent families, strengthening legal abortion services and providing treatment for reproductive tract infections.